

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/937,664

Examiner

Anabel M. Ton

Applicant(s)

OSAWA, HIDEHARU

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 05/08/06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 2-6.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date <u>05/06</u> | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 2-6 are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art cited does not anticipate individually nor teach in combination the following structures:
 - A light source, a light guide plate having opposed sides and being optically coupled to said light source for emitting light incident from said light source through one opposed side thereof, said light guide plate being formed with convexes and concaves having different densities or sizes depending upon the distance from the light source on one side thereof, and a reflective film which is disposed on the other opposed side of said light guide plate, wherein said light guide plate is made of a transparent material in which a light storage material is blended.
 - A surface illuminant comprising a light source, a light guide plate having opposed sides and being optically coupled to said light source for emitting light incident from said light source through one opposed side thereof, said light guide plate being formed with convexes and concaves having different densities or sizes depending upon the distance from the light source on one side thereof, and a reflective film which is disposed on the other opposed side of said light guide plate, wherein a light storage film is formed on the surface of said light guide plate.

- A light source a light guide plate having opposed sides which is optically coupled to said light source for emitting incident light from the light source through one opposed side thereof, and a reflective film which is disposed on the other opposed side of the light guide plate, wherein a light storage film is formed on the surface of the light guide plate, and wherein the concentration of the light storage material in said light storage layer is increased from its one end adjacent to the light source to the other end thereof
- With regards to claim 1, applicant's arguments filed 05/08/06 are acknowledged and are persuasive. The structure of a light source, a light guide plate having opposed sides and being optically coupled to said light source for emitting light incident from said light source through one opposed side thereof, said light guide plate being formed with convexes and concaves having different densities or sizes depending upon the distance from the light source on one side thereof, and a reflective film which is disposed on the other opposed side of said light guide plate, wherein said reflective film comprises a light storage material incorporated in the reflective films wherein said storage material permits emission of light for a period of time after light from said light source disappears, is not taught by the prior art cited of record.
- With regards to claim 3, although Takeuchi (JP 54-092345) teaches a light guide plate having convex and concaves with a light source optically coupled to one side of the light guide, a reflective film disposed on an other opposed side of the light guide plate, wherein the light guide plate is made of a transparent material in

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which a light storage material is mixed or coated, Takeuchi does not teach the convexes and concaves having different densities or sized depending upon the distance from the light source on one side thereof.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Anabel M. Ton whose telephone number is (571) 272-2382. The examiner can normally be reached on 08:00-16:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sandra O'Shea can be reached on (571) 272-2378. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

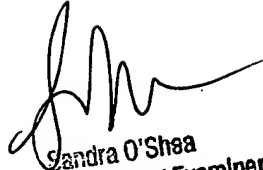
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